

Listing and Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the claims that were published in the PCT Application and the annexes of the International Preliminary Examination Report:

1. (currently amended) Method for processing two or more initially decoded ~~(21, 22, 23)~~ audio signals received or replayed from a bitstream, that each have a different number of channels and/or different channel configurations, and that are combined by mixing ~~(27)~~ and/or switching ~~(28)~~ before being presented ~~(20)~~ in a final channel configuration, wherein to each one of said initially decoded audio signals a corresponding specific channel configuration information item ~~(ChannelConfig)~~ is attached and the channel configuration information items for said two or more initially decoded audio signals can demand channel configurations conflicting with each other, ~~characterised in that said mixing (27) is attached and wherein said mixing and/or switching (28) is controlled such that in case of non-matching number of channels and/or non-matching types of channel configurations the number of the channels to be output and/or the and/or configuration type of the channels to be output following said mixing and/or following said switching is determined by related specific mixing and/or switching information (278) provided from a content provider or broadcaster and that is embedded in said bitstream,~~
~~and in that~~ and wherein to the combined data stream to be presented a correspondingly updated channel configuration information item ~~is attached (30)~~ is attached.
2. (original) Method according to claim 1, wherein said bitstream has MPEG-4 format.

3. (currently amended) Apparatus for processing two or more initially decoded audio signals received or replayed from a bitstream, that each have a different number of channels and/or different channel configurations, and that are combined by mixing and/or switching before being presented in a final channel configuration,
wherein to each one of said initially decoded audio signals a corresponding specific channel configuration information ~~item (ChannelConfig) is attached and the channel configuration information items for said two or more initially decoded audio signals can demand channel configurations conflicting with each other, said apparatus including~~ is attached, comprising:
- at least two audio data decoders ~~(21, 22, 23)~~ that initially decode audio data received or replayed from ~~said a~~ bitstream;
 - means ~~(24-28)~~ for processing the audio signals initially decoded by said audio data decoders, wherein at least two of said decoded audio signals each have a different number of channels and/or a different channel configuration, and wherein said processing includes combination by mixing ~~(27)~~ and/or switching ~~(28)~~;
 - means ~~(20)~~ for presenting the combined audio signals in a final channel configuration, wherein to each one of said initially decoded audio signals a corresponding specific channel configuration information is attached,
wherein in said processing means ~~(24-28)~~ said mixing ~~(27)~~ and/or switching ~~(28)~~ is controlled such that in case of non-matching number of channels and/or non-matching types of channel configurations the number of the channels to be output and/or the configuration type of the channels to be output following said mixing and/or following said switching is determined by related specific mixing and/or switching information ~~(278)~~ provided from a content provider or broadcaster and that is embedded in said bitstream;
 - ~~means (30) for attaching and wherein~~ to the combined data stream fed to said presenting means ~~(20)~~ a correspondingly updated channel configuration information ~~item~~ is attached.
4. (original) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said bitstream has MPEG-4 format.